

on Earth where she has represented not only this body but this Nation as well. She visited the former Soviet Union in 1975 with Senators Hubert Humphrey and Hugh Scott, the first time a congressional delegation had ever visited the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet.

She visited China in 1979 with Senators Frank Church and Jacob Javits. She visited the gulf states just before the gulf war, and she returned just after the war while oilfields were still burning. And in June 1994, Jan coordinated the largest ever overseas delegation when 22 Senators traveled to Normandy to commemorate the 50th anniversary of D-day.

One trip I will always remember is the trip to Bosnia last April when Jan arranged for me and Senators HATCH and REID to attend functions and to visit the land that we had not yet visited following the war. We went to assess progress in implementing the Dayton peace accords. What promised from the start to be a difficult trip became immeasurably more difficult the morning we were to leave when the plane carrying Secretary Ron Brown and 34 others slammed into the ground in Dubrovnik.

Jan's professionalism helped us get through that trip. And in caring on, we were able to show the world that America's commitment to peace in the former Yugoslavia is unwavering.

Closer to home, she has helped welcome every head of State who has visited the Senate over the last 19 years.

In her 27 years in the Senate, Jan Paulk has worked for Democrats and she has worked for Republicans. She has served both with equal professionalism and skill. Most of all, she has served her Nation, and, for that, we are all grateful. Linda and I and all of our colleagues, I know, wish Jan the very best in her new challenge.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PAUL SIMON

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I know others will be commenting on this later on, but I was delighted to be one of those who wore a bow tie this afternoon in honor of our great friend and great Senator from the State of Illinois. The bow tie has sort of become his symbol, but he also is just one of the finest Senators, one of the finest men that we have serving in the U.S. Senate.

I have enjoyed working with him over many years. I have served with him here in the Senate. I have been on committees with him. I have found him to be a Senator who will stand for principle, and sometimes that means standing with Members of the Senate on the other side of the aisle. He truly will be missed as he goes back to his beloved State of Illinois. I am sure he will do many, many productive things in the future as he has in the past, as Lieutenant Governor of his State.

He is a very thoughtful Senator. This was just a little bit of levity today, as we all wore our bow ties in honor of PAUL SIMON. But it was a great symbol of affection that we have for a Senator we have enjoyed so much, and who we will miss as he goes back to Illinois.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 63

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a joint resolution to the desk, which is a continuing resolution containing appropriations for Defense, Foreign Operations, Treasury-Postal, Labor-HHS, Interior and Commerce, State, Justice.

I ask its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 63) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

Mr. LOTT. I now ask for the second reading of the joint resolution and, on behalf of my Democratic colleagues, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I believe the resolution will be set aside and read a second time on the next legislative day, is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment for 1 minute and, upon reconvening, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day.

There being no objection, at 6:36 p.m., the Senate adjourned until 6:37 p.m. the same day.

The Senate met at 6:37 p.m., and was called to order by the Honorable MIKE DEWINE, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—SENATE BILL 2100

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2100) to provide extension of certain authority for the Marshal of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court Police.

Mr. LOTT. I object to further consideration of the bill at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be placed on the Calendar of General Orders.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 63

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the joint resolution for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 63) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

Mr. LOTT. I object to further consideration of the joint resolution at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution will be placed on the Calendar of General Orders.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY VA-HUD APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that once the Senate receives from the House the conference report to accompany the VA-HUD appropriations bill that the conference report be considered and agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements in connection with the conference report be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to present to the Senate the conference agreement on the VA, HUD, and independent agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 1997. I'm especially pleased that this final step in congressional consideration of this measure is occurring prior to start of the fiscal year. Furthermore, we anticipate this measure will be separately signed into law and not become part of another continuing resolution, which has become quite a distinction for a major appropriations bill in this Congress.

I would note that it is especially critical that we enact this bill immediately to avoid potential delays in processing of veterans disability compensation and pension checks. In addition, prompt enactment is necessary to prevent potential disruption in other critical governmental functions such as the sale and processing of Federal flood insurance policies and financing of VA and FHA mortgages.

Mr. President, much of the recent attention paid to this bill has been over disposition of the three major health issues riders added during Senate floor debate: the Domenici-Wellstone mental health parity provision; the Bradley-Frist maternity health care amendment; and the spina bifida VA entitlement. While our appropriations conferees can't take credit for it, we are